

CONTEMPORARY CHRISTIAN MUSICIANS AND THEIR BLASPHEMOUS ROCK OPERA *HERO*

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Some of the best-known contemporary Christian musicians have banded together to produce a rock opera about Jesus Christ entitled *!Hero*.

Written by Eddie DeGarmo and Bob Farrell, the opera has been called “Jesus Christ Superstar for the MTV generation,” and it depicts Christ transplanted to New York City and facing issues such as gang warfare, HIV, and dirty cops.

Not surprisingly, it is decidedly unscriptural and blasphemous. The Last Supper is a barbeque party and “Jesus” is crucified on a city street sign.

The Christ figure is played by Michael Tait, of dc Talk, a black man who demonstrates his spiritual ignorance when he says, “Jesus had to be born somewhere; he had to be a color; it doesn’t matter” (*Star-Telegraph*, Dallas, Texas, Nov. 20). It makes all of the difference in the world where Jesus was born and what “color” or race He was. Had he been born into any family other one tracing a direct lineage to Abraham and David, He would not have been the Messiah. Does DeGarmo, Tait, and company think that the genealogies of the Bible are there just for filler?

Jesus Christ was not an African or an Asian or a European; He was Jewish! It does matter, unless you care nothing whatsoever for the Word of God and have gone so far down the “contemporary” road that you are apostate!

Jesus Christ is not merely some man who could have been born anywhere. He is the eternal Son of God and His birth, life, preaching, miracles, rejection, death, and resurrection were the precise fulfillment of Bible prophecy. We do not have the right to change one *iota* of it.

In one scene, Tait sings the song “Take My Hand” to an AIDS patient: “I’m not here to condemn you/ I’d never want to damn you...” The fact is that though the Lord Jesus came into the world to save sinners and He has great compassion for the lost, He preached often on eternal Hell and divine judgment.

It is Jesus Christ who said twice in one sermon, “... except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish” (Lk. 13:3, 5) and thrice warned in another sermon that hell is “where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched” (Mk. 9:44, 46, 48).

If men do not acknowledge their wickedness before God, they cannot be saved. Thus the Lord Jesus used the Law of God to show men their sin in order to prepare them for salvation (Matthew 5-7). Consider this little selection from Christ's Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5:27-30:

"Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart. And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell."

The Christ that preached this is not the Christ depicted in rock operas.

Of course, it goes without saying that the opera is filled with heavy rock and rap music, which is "earthly, sensual, devilish" (Jam. 3:15).

BUT IT IS FOR EVANGELISM

The standard rebuttal by those who defend CCM and rock operas and such is that it is contemporarized for the sake of evangelism. DeGarmo and company claim that they are retelling the gospel to the MTV generation in a language that they can understand. A review of *!Hero* by Todd Hertz, Associate Editor, *Campus Life* magazine, exposes the fallacy of this attempted defense. Hertz loved the rock opera but he says in passing: "Unfortunately, the storytelling is more conceptual and abstract than a clearly-plotted out drama. Someone unfamiliar with the Gospels may not be able to follow along or understand what's so great about this *Hero*. Thus, the show may not successfully reach the unchurched" (Christianitytoday.com *!Hero* interviews).

It may not reach the unchurched? But we have been told that reaching the unchurched is its chief purpose!

Furthermore, you can't "reach the MTV generation" for Jesus Christ with a twisted message and a confused gospel. The Bible warns repeatedly of false gospels, and that is what we have in *!Hero*.

In addition to Michael Tait, those who are involved with *!Hero* include Rebecca St. James, John Cooper of Skillet, Grits, Nirva, rapper T-Bone, Matt Hammitt of Sanctus Real, and Mark Stuart of Audio Adrenaline. (Audio Adrenaline's book "Dirty Faith" is advertised on the Internet with this foolish slogan: "Is your faith too pretty? Well, get

dirty!’”) The rock opera recently completed a 19-city tour, and novels and comic books are also being published in conjunction.

The Jesus depicted in *!Hero* is a false christ, which means that those who are involved with it are false Christians. Friends, I warn you in the strongest of terms to beware of Contemporary Christian Music.

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